

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 12-15 as set forth below.

12. (New) A database processing method used in a database management system wherein a user inquiry about contents of a database made by the user is analyzed, an execution plan is generated in accordance with results of analyzing said user inquiry and database processing is executed in accordance with said execution plan, said method comprising:

cataloging information on the correspondence between a SQL user-defined function, calling parameters, a format of execution results and an external routine name, said format of execution results being used to determine whether to consider each of table data or to consider a set of table data in order to estimate said SQL user-defined function, said external routine name being designated for implementing said SQL user-defined function, said external routine being implemented as an executable code;

determining either a procedure for executing said related external routine for each piece of desired data

composing said database or a procedure for acquiring a set of results by execution of said related external routine; and  
storing the determined result in an execution plan in accordance with said cataloged information when analyzing the inquiry containing said SQL user-defined function.

13. (New) A database processing method of claim 12, wherein said format of execution results corresponds to the functional evaluation in which an index is not used and the indexed evaluation in which an index is used.

14. (New) A database processing method of claim 12, wherein said calling parameters contain SQL data types.

15. (New) A database processing method used in a database management system wherein a user inquiry about contents of a database made by the user is analyzed, an execution plan is generated in accordance with results of analyzing said user inquiry and database processing is executed in accordance with said execution plan, said method comprising:

cataloging information on calling triggers of external routines each implementing an operation of a user-

defined data type in said database management system when the user defines said user-defined data type;

adding information of an external routine to be called on relevant module calling triggers obtained from said information on module calling triggers of said external routine to said execution plan when said user inquiry made by the user is analyzed and said execution plan is generated; and

executing said external routine on said relevant module calling triggers specified in said information on external routine added to said execution plan when database processing is executed in accordance with said execution plan.